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SKY RIVAL DELPHINIUM GARDENS



O. W. HOKE

SAN DIMAS, CALIFORNIA

GAIL HOKE

"When June comes into your Garden, that lush season when the tide of Spring has welled upward to summer's foreland, the BLUE spires of the DELPHINIUMS cap the garden's sky line. To THEM, then come the humming bird sprites, ruby-throated and swift of flight to poise on hazy wings before each nectared blossom."—House and Garden.

Ours is the age of SPECIALIZATION. Intensive study of that particular thing in which one is most interested, creates ultimate satisfaction and PERFECTION.

Several years ago we chose to specialize in FINER DELPHINIUMS, beginning with the best seed procurable, rougeing all inferior types, growing delphiniums to add distinction and dignity to American gardens. We do not boast of large acreage, but rather, allow our "blue ribbons" to testify for their inimitable quality, enchanting range of rainbow color combinations and haunting charm.

BLUE is a color which is absent in many gardens and its absence creates a lack of balance in the color scheme—the varying delicate sky-blues, sappires and twilight purples intermingle with the warm splashes of orange and crimson, emphasizing and creating color harmony in the garden.

We cultivate the larger flower types and it is not unusual to find SKY RIVAL Delphiniums as large as a silver dollar across; not every plant will produce this width, but that is the fascinating part of delphinium culture—watching for new color developments and improvements in size.

No other flower ever reflected the heavenly blues and changing twilight shades that the delphinium catches and holds in its six to eight feet of growth at maturity—IT STANDS UNRIVALED!

We have originated the following varieties in our gardens—however they will not be for sale until we have increased our stock, which is rather slow work. We want to tell you about a few of them that you may save a place in your garden for them at a later time.

The John Steven McGroarty—the first of our Sky Rival Delphiniums to be introduced. A Vanderbilt seedling, a giant in size and flower bloom. The color is pure purple—the shade most often seen lingering over California mountains at sunset—one row of ultra-marine blue petals around the outer edge—double flower.

It was for our love of California's great author and playwright, John Steven McGroarty, that we gave this flower its honored name.

In speaking of the flower, Mr. McGroarty paid a very high compliment to it in the August 28th issue of the Magazine section of the Los Angeles Times, when he said—"And perhaps this is the happiest honor of all, to have a beautiful flower named in our honor—a flower that will know the flutter of humming-bird wings and will be sipped by the wandering bees. In all God's beautiful world there is nothing quite so beautiful as flowers."

Mr. Blue Jay—A Vanderbilt hybrid—double ultra-marine blue—small light Bee—or center. Flight smethvst flush reminds one of the flash of blue wings dipping across a field of clover.

Memory—A pure soft shade of lavender with a striking gold Bee.

Sky Rival Maid—Miss San Dimas—Charm—Ruffles—Flora Linda—Pearl of Omar and the **Raven** are also new originations of our own and will be described more fully when we can spare a few divisions.

As to the **Big Hollyhock Type Wrexhams** we must tell you about **Flor Del Cielo** (Flower of the Sky) which was introduced at the Gladiolus Show in Los Angeles last yeear. Truly a masterpiece—a super-giant—true sky blue, double as a perfect rose, bonnet shaped flower. Measures a scant three inches. A ruffle of white resembling fine feathers, centers the blossom.

Then, there is the lovely **May Apple Blossom** single—color light blue flushed delicate pink—light fawn Bee. Reminds one of the waxy May apple blossoms of our Eastern wood.

Pansiphinium—double giant Wrex. Purest purple inner petals—outer petals deep blue—flat type flower—gray mousy Bee—tipped gold—resembles a big velvety pansy. Others which clamor for equal recognition are **Sky Ballad** and **Summer Reveller**—which is a big pale blue, overlaid pink with veinings like a tracery of rare old lace.

Not to be outdone by these, the **O. W. Hoke** stands unrivaled for size and rich coloring—the giant of them all.

To those who are in doubt concerning the **Wrexham** and **Vanderbilt** strains, we recommend unhesitatingly the **Vanderbilt** strain for a garden plant with graceful laterals for indoor decoration. As to the **Wrexhams** we have found them rather heavy in appearance except as border plants as they are truly "hollyhock type" in appearance and are not quite so graceful in our opinion as a cut flower as the **Vanderbilt** strain. Our first choice as an unrivaled garden gem is the **Vanderbilt**—yours may be the **Wrexhams**—all a matter of choice.

Seed of both these strains for sale in the late summer of 1928 at \$1.00 for liberal packets.

In ordering a dozen or more of our mixed seedlings you may get among them a masterpiece which after blossoming would remain in your garden—priceless!

Young seedling plants ready about April 1st. As the season in our section of the state has been extremely dry it has retarded germination somewhat, so that if you receive seedling plants the last of April they will blossom during the summer just the same. Seedling plants \$2.50 per dozen, mailing charges prepaid. A limited number of year old plants ready now at \$5.00 per dozen, cultural directions with each order.

Remembering too, that in ordering **Sky Rival Delphiniums** you **ALONE** will not enjoy these graceful flowers but will make your garden a paradise for those sumptuous drifting fragments of the **SKY—The Butterflies—**"daintiest revelers of our joyous earth,—whose **FAVORITE** flower is **BLUE.**"

**MAIL ALL ORDERS TO SKY RIVAL DELPHINUM GARDENS
SAN DIMAS, CALIF.**

